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# VALLEY STAR

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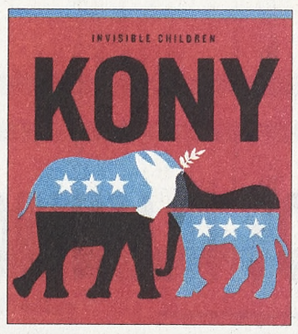
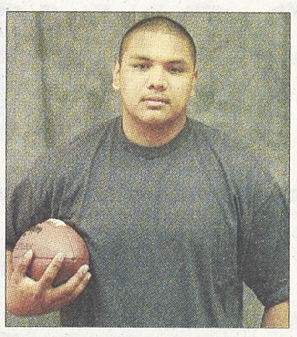



All sides agree Kony is a monster, but are the tactics of the campaign effective?

SEE OPINION PAGE 3

Despite budget cuts, the Valley College speech team continues its success.

SEE VALLEY LIFE PAGE 4



Anthony Romaualdo, All City high school football player, comes to Valley.

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

lavalleystar.com | March 21, 2012 | Volume 76 Issue 4

## THE ASU LOOKS TO FILL OPEN SPOTS IN ELECTIONS

**Nearly all ASU positions are up for the taking in this year's election.**

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students wanting to get involved in government and be the voice of the student body can run for next month's Associated Student Union elections. The majority of spots in the executive council are available for students eligible to run.

Every spring semester, the ASU elects new members. Whomever is elected is appointed for one year, starting July 1. There are, however, exceptions: the attorney general, chief justice and secretary are all directly appointed by the newly elected president.

"Basically, all the positions are available," said President Norvan Berkezyan. "Whoever is elected will serve fall 2012 and spring 2013."

Current Commissioner of Campus and Environmental Affairs Lester Salvador stated he would run for vice president, which is—according to Berkezyan—a very competitive race.

"I'm looking forward to it, actually," said Salvador. "It's a tough competition."

According to Berkezyan, the two jobs—other than president and vice president—featuring the most competition are commissioner of public relations and commissioner of political affairs. The president and commissioners think this is due to a high percentage of the student body being business or political science majors.

"Certain positions will have about four people running; some will run un-opposed," said Berkezyan. "It's different every year."

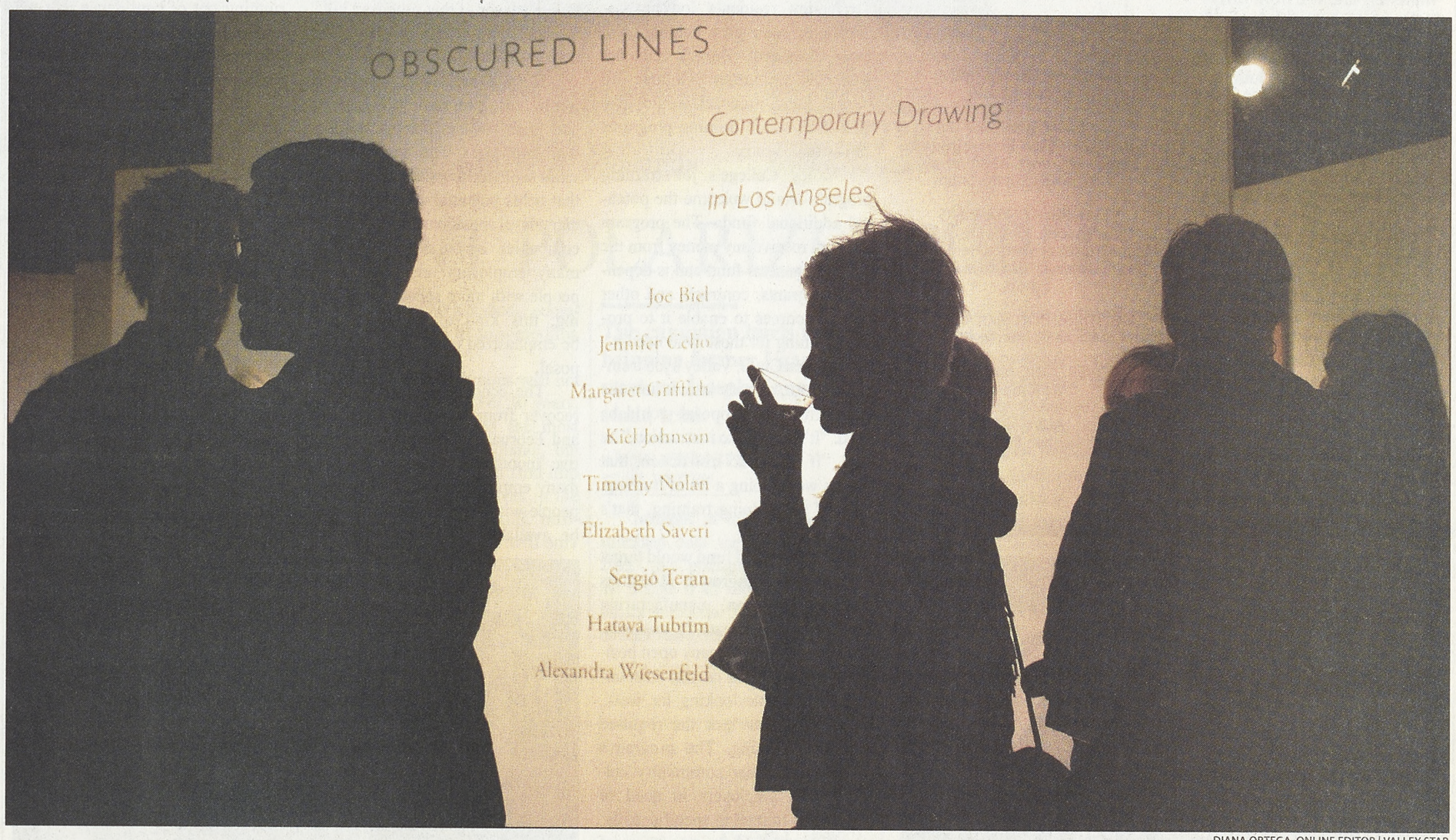
Four current members of the executive council will not run for re-election because they are transferring: President Berkezyan, Vice President Eduard Grigorian, Commissioner of Fine Arts Ashley Miller and Commissioner of Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Erik Castañon.

"It was a really great experience," said Miller. "I think that you gain a lot of leadership skills that you wouldn't normally get the opportunity to have if you were a regular student."

Interested applicants for an executive council position must fill out an ASU application in the Student Services Building. To be eligible to run for office, students must first meet the criteria listed on the application and comply with the Los Angeles Community College District Administrative Regulations. They are required to be a current-paid ASU member, maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA, be actively enrolled and complete at least five units per semester, and have completed no more than 80 district units.

"The election committee wants to get it out there for the students to know that there are open positions," said Berkezyan. "We want them to apply; we want as many people as possible to apply."

The deadline to submit an application is Friday at 1 p.m. in the ASU office. Elections will take place April 16-17 in Monarch Hall and Campus Center.




DIANA ORTEGA, ONLINE EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

AN OBSCURED POINT OF VIEW - With the light focused on the art and the mood set, Valley College's Art Gallery "Obscured Lines" exhibit is open from March 1 to April 19 in the Art Building. The artists' displayed works range from interactive pieces to portraits of Mexican wrestlers.

## SUPERIOR COURT OVERTURNS FTR DEBARMENT

**A Los Angeles County Superior Court judge overturned the FTR debarment.**

BRAD TAYLOR
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Judge Jane L. Johnson ruled that the Los Angeles Community College District violated owner Nizar Katbi's constitutional rights with its decision. The ruling stated that the district's evidence against FTR did not substantiate its charges. In addition, the board of trustees abused its discretion when it suspended FTR and Katbi from managing more bids or contracts.

"I am certainly watching this very carefully, and we are going to pay attention to what happens next," said Valley College President Sue Carleo. "This is all being handled at the district level; I read about it at the same time everyone else did."

An L.A. Times article stated that one of the board's hearing committees accused FTR of fraudulent claim submissions on construction projects at Valley and Mission colleges and of poorly constructing Valley's Allied Health and Science Building.

However, Johnson ruled that the board did not consider FTR's counter claims. According to the judge, the hearing committee had an "unacceptable probability of actual bias," influencing the outcome of the board's lawsuit against FTR.

As a result, Johnson ordered both FTR and the board to submit briefs in favor or against a retrial, mandating neutrality.

FTR and Katbi have filed a lawsuit against the LACCD's board, seeking damages for its unlawful efforts to debar them. They are targeting individual board members who voted for the debarment, which caused FTR to lay off approximately 300 employees.

"We're disappointed with the ruling," said Coby King, one of the district's spokespeople. "We disagree on both the substantive and procedural grounds on which the judge issued the decision. We will be considering our options in the coming days."

FTR's construction of Valley's AHS Building is in need of further repairs, according to campus officials. The $46-million building opened in 2008, but campus officials said the construction was defective. Carleo added that the building will undergo repairs during the summer.

## VALLEY BIDS FAREWELL TO SANDY MAYO

**Vice President of Academic Affairs Sandy Mayo resigns to become president of Moreno Valley College.**

CRISTINA SERRATO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

MORRIS DE LA ROCA| VALLEY STAR

LOOKING FORWARD - Sandy Mayo, vice president of academic affairs, will soon take her passion for student achievement and infectous smile to Moreno Valley College in a bittersweet move to lead the college as president.

After five years as vice president of academic affairs at Valley College, Sandy Mayo will resign from her position—effective June 22, 2012—to begin a three-year contract as president of Moreno Valley College.

"It has been an honor to be at Valley," said Mayo. "Valley is a special place, a really great, very amazing place where people genuinely care for each other. Those relationships and connections are amazing to have."

This was Mayo's second five-year term at Valley, as she had previously been director of the Pace program from January 1997 to January 2002. After a decade at Valley, students and faculty will miss Mayo.

"This is an exciting opportunity to be a college president, and Moreno Valley College is a nice, small place, an amazing little campus," said Mayo, who began her educational career at Alessandro Middle School in Moreno Valley. "I have come full circle, and this is a phenomenal opportunity."

Her colleagues, however, are sad to see her go.

"I feel torn. This is something she has really wanted for a long time. I am happy for her and that she has reached her goals," said Secretary of Academic Affairs Erline Ewings, "but I am sad for us."

The current vice president is excited for her relocation to Moreno Valley and is confident that Valley is on the way to a better future.

"I won't miss L.A. traffic, but Valley will be missed," said Mayo. "This is the next adventure in my life, and I'm incredibly excited."

Mayo's resignation was made public at the commencement of the spring semester, and a committee to find her replacement has been formed. The list of participating members has not been disclosed, but it has been stated that the process of finding a new vice president has begun.

As of March 1, the committee began accepting applications, and in accordance with community college regulations, it will continue to accept them until April 13.

"After the application process closes, the committee will review all of the eligible applications and decide who to interview and who will be offered the position," said Valley Compliance Officer Charmaigne Shearrill. "However, [Valley President] Sue Carleo will have the final decision," she added. According to Shearrill, the committee hopes to designate a new vice president by July 1 in order to eliminate the necessity for an interim, or acting, vice president.

### ASU Election Deadline

**The application deadline to run for student government is Friday, March 23 at 1 p.m. Applications are available at the ASU office in the Student Services Center.**

### Important Information:

### Cal State Enrollment

According to the L.A. Times, facing unknown budget cuts, the Cal State system plans to freeze enrollment for most campuses next spring. The system is also looking to wait-list all applicants the following fall. For more information, visit: www.lavalleystar.com.

### Online Slideshow

### Photos of the Week: L.A Marathon

These features and more can be found in full @ www.lavalleystar.com

### Monarch Baseball

### Conference

The Monarch baseball team will face-off against the Pierce College Brahmas 2:30 p.m. tomorrow at Pierce.

## THE VALLEY STAR INFO & STAFF

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# JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS MAY GET A BOOST

**Community colleges may see $8 billion in job training funds.**

KEVIN JERSEY
STAFF WRITER

Valley residents looking for work may soon get a helping hand from President Barack Obama, whose Community College to Career Fund proposal would give $8 billion to job training programs across the country.

Valley College's job training program would welcome the potential additional funds. The program does not receive any money from the college's general fund and is dependent on grants, contracts and other outside sources to enable it to provide training for those who need it.

Lennie Ciufo, Valley's job training director, already knows how the funds from the proposal would be used. "It would go to instruction," he said. "If it goes to instruction, that means we're doing a lot of training. And, if we're doing training, that's good."

The proposed fund would target training in high-growth industries like transportation, manufacturing and health care. Currently, businesses are unable to fill many open positions in these fields despite an abundance of people looking for work, since applicants lack the required technical training. The program's goal is to partner community colleges with employers in need of employees trained in specific skills.

"This should be an engine of job growth all across the country, these community colleges," Obama said when introducing the proposal, "and that's why we've got to support them."

However, Ciufo recognizes the possible additional funding will not be a cure-all for the training needs of those out of work. "I'm obviously in great favor of that proposed bill," he said, "but it has to go a long way."

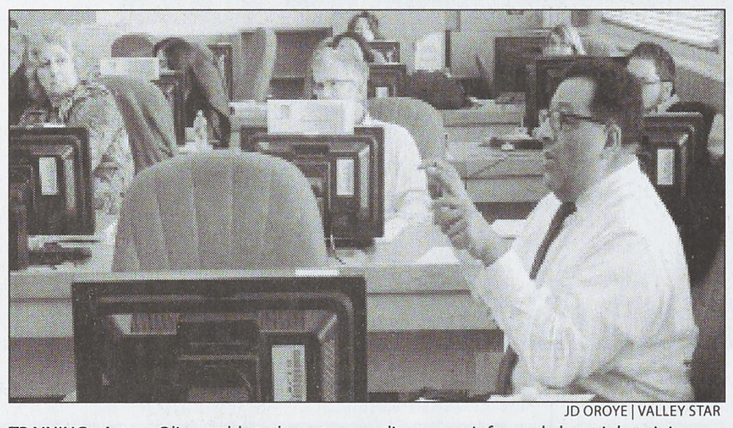
Despite budget limitations, the job training program at Valley has had great success placing trainees with employers. The program provides short-term vocational training that helps potential candidates find entry-level positions with various companies in the area. However, many employers are looking for people with more specialized training; this kind of training would be emphasized under Obama's proposal.

The economy is beginning to recover from the recent recession, and February marked 24 consecutive months of job growth. Still, many employers doubt that enough people with the required skills will be available to fill the increased demand for workers. This is something that Ciufo understands.

"I think what we need to establish more than anything," he said, "is confidence—confidence in our ability to deliver, confidence that we can find workers to fit their needs. And, I think employers are running out of confidence that we have a skilled work force. I don't think so, but I think that's the perception."

By working directly with employers, Ciufo and his staff are able to determine what skills are needed for existing job openings. They are then able to provide training in those areas to potential applicants. By allowing the employer to dictate what skills are taught to trainees, it becomes easier to place them in a new job once their training is completed.

The additional funds that would come with the passage of the proposed bill would increase the partnership between community college job training programs and employers. This would help more people receive the specific training needed to re-enter the workforce.



JD OROYE | VALLEY STAR
TRAINING - Arturo Olivas told students to go online to get informed about job training.

# STUDENTS SHOULD REASSESS ACADEMIC PREPARATION

**Students' lack of interest in transfer and career counseling relates to a recent controversy.**

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Students looking to transfer to a four-year university should be aware of the stigmas and expectations of today's transfer culture. In looking at a controversial statement made by a UCLA professor and the reality of transferring on time, those whom do not take advantage of academic resources may find the process disheartening.

Valley College's Career/Transfer Center held workshops for undecided majors and transfer students last Thursday. Included were online appointments with UC Santa Barbara, where a counselor from the university spoke with students through a live web-cam regarding academic preparation. UC Berkeley also offers similar workshops. According to Clive Gordon, the director of the center, counseling gives him the chance to explore and understand students' educational and career paths. However, there was only one student present who was aware of this resource and attended the workshops.

"Based on where the student is, we give various assessments," said Gordon. "Once they're finished, we score them and give them one-on-one counsel[ing] assessing the results. We research majors they're interested in. Based on the information and outlook on the career, they make a decision on what to pursue."

Gordon stated that, on average, five to 20 students attend the workshops, primarily during the fall semester. The services are advertised in several departments, yet when Gordon and his interns questioned students at random on whether or not they received academic counseling, many replied "no."

"If students aren't aware of what we are and what we do, how can we get to them?," said Gordon.

According to Gordon, today's transfer culture expects students to finish their lower division courses in a timely manner. Though budget cuts have made registering for these courses difficult, Gordon stated this is no exception: colleges expect students to take classes at several colleges in order to meet their goals.

"The UCs are looking at students as ill-prepared if they don't finish on time," said Gordon. "That will count against them in this transfer culture."

A recent blog by Matthew Kahn, a UCLA economics professor, gives an example of these expectations. According to Eitan Arom of The Daily Bruin, Kahn stated that transfer students are "less academically prepared" than four-year students, comparing them to "transients." The post was taken down, but not before exposing a serious issue.

Students who wish to prepare themselves for these expectations and fight the stigmas against transfers can do so by taking advantage of the resources here at Valley. There are PD-20 and PD-4 courses, which offer insight into the transfer process; the TAG program, unlike TAP, guarantees admission to any UC with the exception of UCLA and UC Berkeley; and counseling allows students to explore their majors and prepare for upper division courses. However, the ball is in the students' court.

"Life is not an assessment," said Gordon. "Many students think they can take a test and be done with the process, and many don't continue to use our services once they've started. This is a career process. We want to give [students] a direction."

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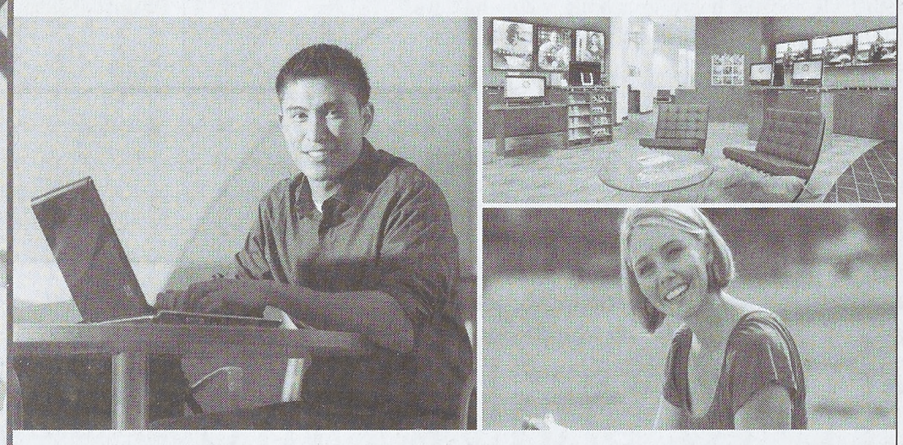

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# ASU ADDRESSES CHANGES IN FACULTY AFTER RETURNING FROM WASHINGTON

**Workshops on lobbying and advocacy could offer ways to encourage student involvement in political and financial affairs on campus.**

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union met Tuesday to discuss the "March 15" letters issued to administrators by the district which reference potential layoffs due to the state budget crisis. The meeting also gave a follow up to the ASU's weekend trip to Washington, D.C. and announced the resignation of council advisor Elizabeth Ortiz.

Budgetary shortfalls continue to be a pressing issue on campus. During a recent IEC meeting, concerns shifted from student resources to faculty and staff. According to Cynthia E. Griffin of Our Weekly, administrators were given letters that may lead to furloughs in staff and faculty. The letters offer mandatory notification to instructors, stating positions are not guaranteed next year.

Several members of the council, including Vice President Eduard Grigoryan, voiced that cuts to staff may be a last result to unavoidable financial woes in the near future.

"The only option the school has is to start firing people," said Grigoryan. "There is nothing else left to cut, so they're cutting benefits, salaries and faculty."

Grigoryan was among the group that visited Washington to speak to representatives and attend workshops on lobbying. Council members were also aware of the opportunity to scrutinize educational bills and sought to learn political processes. Stephanie Vance, an advocacy guru and author on lobbying, was the head of several workshops. Vance gave essential tips on what to ask congressmen and hosted workshops on how to get students involved in voting.

"There were several workshops on how to lobby and advocate student interest," said Grigoryan. "She explained the psychology behind lobbyists and representatives."

Members of the committee met with California representatives Howard Berman and Adam Schiff during the trip and plan to meet with Brad Sherman tomorrow. According to Grigoryan, both Schiff and Berman pledged to be champions for educational bills.

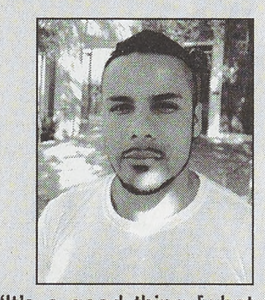
Following reports, council advisor Elizabeth Ortiz announced that she will resign March 29 and be replaced by Raquel Sanchez, the assessment center coordinator. Ortiz recommended that commissioners be organized and well prepared for the transition by submitting activity plans in a timely manner.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The views expressed on this page are solely those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Valley Star, its instructors, editors, staff or those of Los Angeles Valley College, its administrators, faculty, staff, or students.



## VALLEY VIEW | WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE KONY 2012 CAMPAIGN?

"[Kony] is horrible. How can he kill their parents? He has a mental problem. Who is letting him do this? They need to stop him."
**-DAISY MADRIGAL, PSYCHOLOGY**



"It's a good thing [what the campaign] is doing. The media is a good way to send the message to the people."
**-JORGE MARTINEZ, PSYCHOLOGY**

"I think, even if it is a little late ... it is never too late. We can still do something. I'm glad [Kony] 2012 is happening."
**-VERONICA VASQUEZ, THEATER PRODUCTION**

"The movement is good ... putting his face all over is great. When they capture [him], I strongly believe they should not imprison him but utilize the death penalty."
**-COURTNEY PERKINS, SOCIOLOGY/LAW**

"[Invisible Children Inc.] is a positive group ... I don't know why people don't pay attention to what's going on in reality."
**-JESSICA HERZ, SOCIAL WELFARE**

COMPILED BY JD OROYE | VALLEY STAR

# KONY 2012 MOVEMENT POLARIZES PUBLIC OPINION

**The hugely popular film is misleading and the motives behind it are suspicious.**

**KEVIN JERSEY**
STAFF WRITER

Joseph Kony is a monster. That is indisputable. What is in dispute, however, are the facts and motivations behind the film that has made him an Internet sensation. This raises the question of whether "Kony 2012" is an altruistic call to action or mere propaganda to justify a military invasion in central Africa.

The film paints Kony as the leader of an army of 30,000 child soldiers who has led a 20-year rein of terror over the people of Uganda. This may be partly true, but it does not tell the entire story. The Council of Foreign Relations says that Kony has been in hiding outside of Uganda for six years and that "it is unlikely that the LRA consists of more than a few hundred people." While this does not lessen the atrocities committed by Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army, it does cause curiosity as to why there is such urgency to act now.

Invisible Children Inc., the producer of the film, and the "Kony 2012" campaign both appear to be noble on the surface. However, it cannot be mere coincidence that American interest in the cause exploded soon after oil and uranium deposits were found in Uganda. It is also suspicious that Invisible Children spends as much of its funding on self-promotion as it does on the people in Africa for whom the group claims to be fighting, as disclosed in the group's audited financial statements and then verified on its own website.

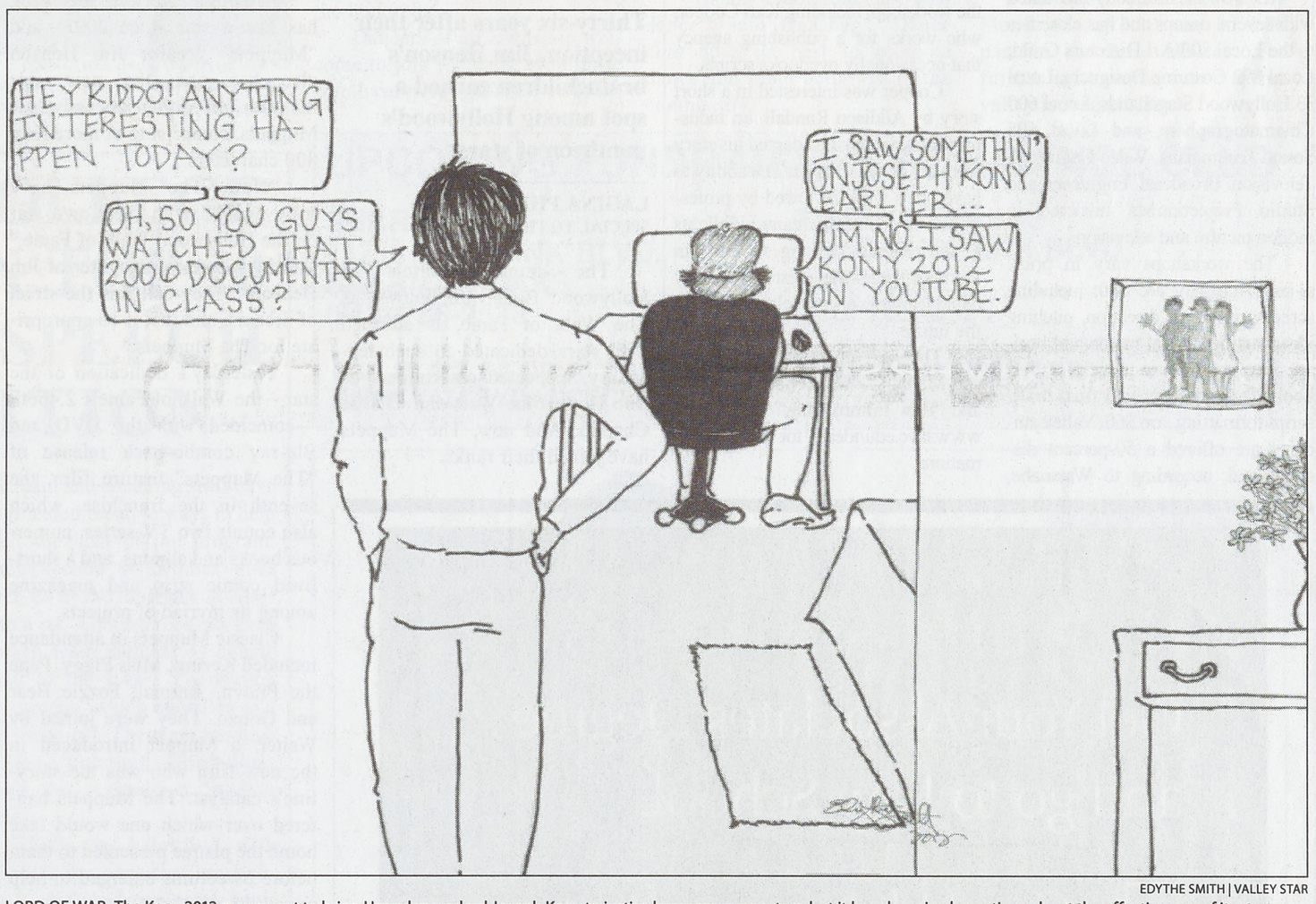
The filmmakers are calling for military intervention in Uganda to find and capture Kony. However, as stated in the film, 100 American soldiers were sent to the area last fall. This is troubling as these troops are being sent to assist the Ugandan Army, which serves a government that gained and maintains power through many of the same tactics employed by the LRA, including use of child soldiers and the mass slaughter of innocent people.

The fact is, central Africa is a volatile and violent place. Millions have been killed in Uganda, the Congo and South Sudan in the past two decades. Kony, as terrible as he is, can only be blamed for a small portion of these killings.

Yet, "Kony 2012" asserts that he is the world's most dangerous person and then provides a ridiculously simple method for bringing him to justice. The plan is to make Kony so famous that he cannot be ignored, with the thinking that if enough people are made aware of the evil things he has done, someone will be forced to do something about it.

Making Kony famous will not bring him to justice. For 10 years, Osama bin Laden was the most famous villain on the planet, but it took military action to find him and cost thousands of lives in the process. Involving the U.S. military in the hunt for Kony will only bring more violence to an area that has been ravaged for decades.

Capturing Kony will not bring peace to Uganda any more than capturing Saddam Hussein brought peace to Iraq. Hussein was captured in 2003, but violence in Iraq continues even after American troops have finally been withdrawn. Sadly, the same will happen in Uganda.


HEY KIDDO! ANYTHING INTERESTING HAPPEN TODAY?
OH, SO YOU GUYS WATCHED THAT 2006 DOCUMENTARY IN CLASS?
I SAW SOMETHIN' ON JOSEPH KONY EARLIER...
UM, NO. I SAW KONY 2012 ON YOUTUBE.

EDYTHE SMITH | VALLEY STAR
LORD OF WAR -The Kony 2012 movement to bring Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony to justice has many supporters, but it has also raised questions about the effectiveness of its strategy.

**The campaign hurls toward bringing former Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony to stand trial.**

**ANNE CHRISTENSEN**
STAFF WRITER

Millions of Internet users have stumbled onto the viral hit "Kony 2012" and perhaps wondered what the hoopla is all about. After watching the emotional 30-minute YouTube documentary, the brainchild of Jason Russell—USC Production Film School graduate and founder of the non-profit organization Invisible Children Inc.—the intention is clear: to effectively use modern social networking skills and technology to bring to justice a known militant leader guilty of war crimes.

Those who approach the Kony 2012 campaign with criticism misunderstand its intention. This is not a scientific documentary or a sappy victim story. It is a sleek and effective advertising campaign intended to make people aware of the terror experienced by innocent victims and rally U.S. government support for continued military pressure on Kony's Lord's Resistance Army.

Kony 2012 seeks justice for the millions of victims who have suffered rape, mutilations, imprisonment and death at the hands of the LRA in central Africa. Kony, who claims to be the spokesperson of God, has been indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, but has evaded capture for years.

Recently, the campaign has drawn unfounded criticism for oversimplifying the war and suffering of its victims. Speaking to the British newspaper The Guardian, African journalist Emmy Okello said, "What has angered people is that the video is about a white person, not about the victims." But what critics may not fully realize is who this campaign is aimed at: modern citizens with an attention span of 140 characters or less. Sadly, this glossy and streamlined approach is all we can relate to.

The LRA has been abducting children to become sex slaves or child soldiers since 1986. Kony himself was driven out of Uganda in 2006, but he has not been tried for his crimes, nor has he been punished. He just moved his war elsewhere.

Critique of Invisible Children's financial operations has popped up. Non-profit organizations are not required by law to make their financial statements public. However, since 2009, the IRS has required non-profits to file a specific tax form allowing the public to evaluate the financial operations, according to Joanne Fritz—a 30-year veteran of non-profit organizations. Invisible Children is audited by an independent, certified public accounting company and has made financial statements dating back to 2006 available on its website. According to the 2011 budget information, 81 cents of every donated dollar was spent on campaign programs and only 16 cents on administration costs.

The campaign strategy is effective: the YouTube video has almost 80-million views; the campaign has name-brand recognition, and the website sold out action kits in a matter of weeks.

What is important is seeing Invisible Children and its campaign for what it is, which is a "social media startup company whose main product is conflict resolution," according to Anthony Wing Kosner, content strategist and contributing writer for Forbes Magazine.

This campaign style proved effective in 2008 when it helped Barack Obama, courtesy of the slogan "yes we can," land his seat in the oval office.

# END THIS WAR: THE AFGHANISTAN WAR HAS GONE ON TOO LONG AND HAS COST TOO MANY LIVES

**The recent killings by an American soldier prove prolonging the war will only result in more atrocities.**

**KEVIN JERSEY**
STAFF WRITER

March 11, an American soldier walked into an Afghan village and slaughtered 16 innocent people, most of them women and children, and set the bodies on fire. This is tragic, but it is only one of countless violent acts that have been committed against civilians in the decade-long war in Afghanistan. Just as tragic is the fact that the war continues, meaning more deaths will follow.

It is time to end this war. Too many people have died, and many more will die if our troops are not brought home.

Death is an inevitability of any war, but attacks against civilians fall well outside normal consequences—even in wartime—and are especially heinous considering these civilians have nothing to do with the reasons that American troops are in Afghanistan.

The War in Afghanistan began in October 2001 in response to the 9/11 attacks on the United States with the stated goal of capturing Osama bin Laden and eliminating the threat of al-Qaeda. Bin Laden was killed in May 2011 and current estimates place al-Qaeda membership at fewer than 100 people in Afghanistan. Yet, the fighting continues.

Public opinion has turned against the war. Nearly 88 percent of Americans favored the war when it began, according to a Gallup poll. Recent polling by the Washington Post shows that support for the war has fallen to 35 percent. Afghans also initially favored American intervention, as they were eager to rid of both al-Qaeda and its Taliban supporters. Polls suggest that fewer than 30 percent of Afghans now want American troops in their country.

> **"The only thing that can be achieved by continuing to fight is increasing casualties on both sides. In that scenario, everyone loses."**

Much of this swing in opinion is due to recent attacks against civilians. Just this year, American troops have committed numerous atrocities. In February, air strikes killed eight people believed to be enemy combatants. It was later discovered that they were innocent children. This came on the heels of a video surfacing that showed American soldiers urinating on the dead bodies of Afghans. These, like March 11's tragedy, should not happen. Sadly, they will continue to happen as long as American troops remain in Afghanistan.

Nearly 2,000 American soldiers have been killed since the war began, a number dwarfed by the amount of innocent Afghans killed during that time. Exact totals are difficult to determine, but estimates range as high as 17,000 civilian deaths directly related to the fighting, with another 20,000 estimated deaths from starvation, disease or displacement caused by the war.

American arrogance insists the fighting should continue until the United States is victorious. But, this is not a war that can be won. Bin Laden is dead and al-Qaeda has been decimated. To think anything beyond that can be accomplished is foolish. The only thing that can be achieved by continuing to fight is increasing the casualties on both sides. In that scenario, everyone loses.

President Barack Obama has vowed to withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan by 2014. That is not good enough. American soldiers should be brought home immediately.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Letters to the editor can be sent to: editorinchief@lavalleystar.com or submitted online at www.lavalleystar.com. Letters must be limited to 300 words and may be edited for content. Full name and contact information must be supplied in order for letters to be printed. Send by Thursday for the following week's issue.

## LAVC Events

### MARCH

#### Wednesday, 21

Obscured Lines: Contemporary Drawing in Los Angeles Art Exhibition
Sponsored by LAVC Art Gallery
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
LAVC Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

Free Concert Wednesdays
1 p.m.
Sponsored by the LAVC Music Department
Performance by the Terje Lie Groove Jazz
Music 106
Concert Hotline: (818) 778-5633

#### Thursday, 22

Obscured Lines: Contemporary Drawing in Los Angeles Art Exhibition
Sponsored by LAVC Art Gallery
11 a.m. - 2 p.m., 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
LAVC Art Gallery
(818) 778-5536

"Overcoming Math Anxiety"
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Sponsored by STARS (Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students)
Student Services Multipurpose Room
(818) 947-2712

Inter Club Council Meeting
1 p.m.
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
Campus Center 104
(818) 778-5516

#### Friday, 23

LAVC Student Government Application Due
1 p.m.
Sponsored by the Associated Student Union
Campus Center 104
(818) 778-5516

## ! THINK TRANSFER

### MARCH

#### Wednesday, 21

CSUN Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

#### Thursday, 22

Applied to UC/CSU: What's Next Workshop
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Monday, 26

UCLA Peer Mentor
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

#### Tuesday, 27

CSUN Mentor
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Undecided Major/Career Workshop
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

All activities are held in the Career/Transfer Center (Administration 126) unless otherwise indicated.

Hours for the Career/Transfer Center are Monday - Thursday from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

For appointments and further information, call (818) 947-2646.

For more information, also visit www.lavc.edu/transfer.

# FILM ENTHUSIASTS FIND OUTLET AT IDEAS

**Students and local professionals hone their filmmaking skills with workshops.**

EDYTHE SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Media arts and film studies majors at Valley College have a promising resource on campus; the Institute for Developing Entertainment Arts and Studies—a program allowing students to learn alongside professionals—offers workshops that reflect on the entertainment industry.

IDEAS was started in 2002, according to Dan Watanabe, the program director. Several basic workshops on software, business, style and pitching ideas are offered, as well screenwriting and a specialty group for writing horror.

"These workshops are not for credit," said Watanabe. "[They] serve students as 'refresher courses,' as well as a way to meet industry pros or understand certain aspects of the business."

The goal of the program is to provide training to students and industry stakeholders in both digital and non-digital media, with a focus on traditional film and broadcasting.

IDEAS is indirectly affiliated with several unions and has close ties to the Local 800 Art Directors Guild; Local 892 Costume Designers; Local 33 Hollywood Stagehands; Local 600 Cinematographers; and Local 695 Sound Technicians, Video Engineers, Television Broadcast Engineers and Studio Projectionists involved in motion picture and television.

The workshops vary in price: a large majority are $20, including screenwriting, art direction, pitching ideas, acting, digital media and business aspects. Others, such as Pro Tools, Dreamweaver and final draft/script formatting, are $60. Valley students are offered a 50-percent discount and, according to Watanabe, the program is considering allowing Valley students to attend for free. IDEAS attendees are also eligible for discounts on most software.

The program hosted its first screenwriting critique workshop of the 2012 season at Valley earlier this month. Brian Harvey, a business graduate from Portland State University, returned to the workshop to get feedback on his script.

"A lot of people definitely know what they're talking about," said Harvey. "Some people might not—so it's a lot of learning and sharing. We can ask [Watanabe] about anything because he used to be a development executive, or anyone else with experience."

Harvey's script was a revisionist take on the zombie genre, granting a voice to the undead and posing the issue of "rights" for the not-quite human. His goal was to find something noteworthy in the critique; plausibility, "the big picture" and an analysis of the characters were all key points he wished to focus on during the feedback process.

The screenwriting critique group has been in operation since 2010 and is affiliated with the Greater Los Angeles Writers Society. Several industry professionals were present at the workshop, including Kari Cooper, who works for a publishing agency that occasionally overlooks scripts.

Cooper was interested in a short story by Addison Randall, an industry professional who adapted his story from his original script. The ability to have one's work reviewed by professionals is one of the many highlights of the program; having someone in the industry take interest in the story could lead to working relationships in the future.

The next upcoming workshops are March 24 for "First AD Tips" and "Raw Filmmaking." Visit http://www.lavc.edu/ideas/ for more information.

MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR
"WOCKA, WOCKA FAME" - The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce bestowed its highest honor to Jim Henson's Muppets, Tuesday, with a star on its Walk of Fame, located outside The El Capitan Theatre on Hollywood Boulevard. Muppets in attendance to accept the honor included Kermit, Pepe the Prawn, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Gonzo, Kermit, Walter and Sweetums.

# HOLLYWOOD HONORS THE MUPPETS WITH WALK OF FAME STAR

**Thirty-six years after their inception, Jim Henson's brainchildren earned a spot among Hollywood's pantheon of stars.**

LAGINA PHILLIPS
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

The famed stretch of Hollywood Boulevard, known as The Walk of Fame, is adorned with stars dedicated to such legendary, respected entertainers as Bob Hope, Mae West and Charlie Chaplin. And now, The Muppets have joined their ranks.

Although Kermit the Frog has had a star since 2002—and "Muppets" creator Jim Henson also has one—the new star includes all of Henson and Co.'s Muppets, comprising of more than 800 characters.

"Now, The Muppets have truly arrived with their own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame," said Lisa Henson, daughter of Jim Henson. "They call this the street of dreams, and that is so appropriate for The Muppets."

Yesterday's dedication of the star—the Walk of Fame's 2,466th—coincided with the DVD and Blu-ray combo-pack release of "The Muppets" feature film, the seventh in the franchise, which also counts two TV series, numerous books and albums, and a short-lived comic strip and magazine among its myriad of projects.

Classic Muppets in attendance included Kermit, Miss Piggy, Pepe the Prawn, Animal, Fozzie Bear and Gonzo. They were joined by Walter, a Muppet introduced in the new film who was the storyline's catalyst. The Muppets bantered over which one would take home the plaque presented to them before Sweetums emerged to help unveil the star.

The unveiling of the star outside the Disney-owned El Capitan Theatre drew more than 100 people. The theater appears in the film as the old Muppets Theatre and was also the location of its world premiere in November.

The film was a resurrection for the famous puppets who remained quiet since 1999's "Muppets in Space," which flopped at the box office, failing to recoup its $24-million budget. The recent "Muppets" film, however, was a success, debuting at No. 2 and grossing more than $158 million.

Disney secured the rights to The Muppets in 2004 and in 2008, green-lit a script from "How I Met Your Mother" actor and puppet enthusiast Jason Segel on the heels of his star-making turn in 2008's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall," which he starred in and wrote. Segel pulled double duty in this film, too, co-writing it with Nicholas Stoller and starring in it alongside Amy Adams, Chris Cooper and Rashida Jones.

"I, like most of you, have grown up with The Muppets and am thrilled to see them rise to stardom again," said Walt Disney Studios Chairman Rich Ross.

As music has always been an integral part of The Muppets, the August release of Muppets: The Green Album—a tribute record by contemporary artists of varying genres, including Sondre Lerche, Matt Nathanson and Weezer, from whom the album borrows its name—boosted the film's popularity. The album reached No. 8 on the Billboard 200. A 30-song soundtrack was also released the day before the film hit theaters. The track "Man or Muppet" won the Best Song Oscar at last month's Academy Awards.

The Muppets enjoy a rich history. Having first emerged on "Sam and Friends" in 1955, Kermit became the show's breakout star. After creating puppets for "Sesame Street" in 1969, Henson gave Kermit his own spin-off in 1976; and "The Muppets" most Americans know and love was born.

Every year, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce chooses approximately 20 entertainers to award with stars from hundreds of nominations. Upcoming inductees include Tina Fey, Oprah Winfrey and Adam West.

MAGGIE HASBUN | VALLEY STAR
SEEING STARS - Hollywood Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Leron Gubler presented The Muppets with their collective star, the 2,466th on Hollywood's Walk of Fame, Tuesday, and a commemorative plaque.

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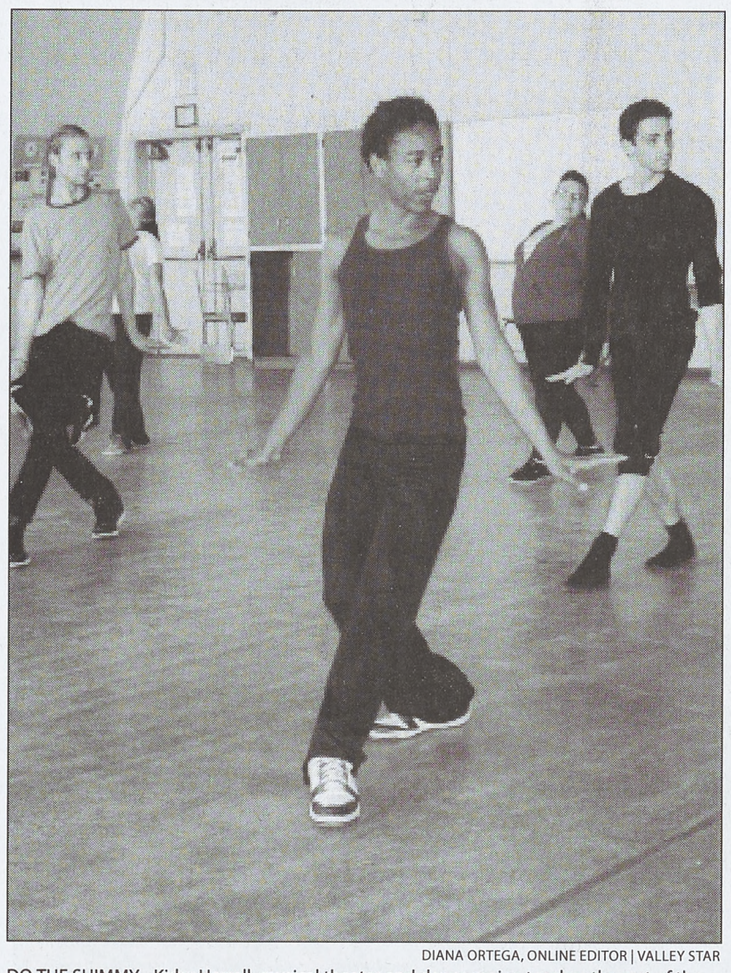
# VALLEY COLLEGE DANCE CLUB FINDS ITS GROOVE ON CAMPUS



DIANA ORTEGA, ONLINE EDITOR | VALLEY STAR

DO THE SHIMMY - Kirby Harrell, musical theater and dance major, teaches the rest of the dance club the steps to a routine that is to be performed at the next club day, requested from him by club President Noelle Andressen.

**The Valley College dance club's members bond over life, art and friendship on and off campus.**

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Field House at Valley College across from the Allied Health and Sciences Center is a mystery to many. But, to dance club members—young and old, trained and untrained—it is a home to those who love the art form and has seen 100 members come and go within its four-year existence.

Noelle Andressen started Valley's dance club in 2008, and it became an officially chartered Associated Student Union club in 2010. The club started out with two members, Andressen and 70-year-old Carol Butler—the oldest member in the club—and has now reached a membership in the hundreds.

Dancers of all levels are welcome to join the club, even those who have never grooved before.

"All of our dances have always incorporated all levels," said Andressen. "I teach dance and choreograph professionally and believe that all levels can participate in the same dance with careful planning and helping everyone rise to the occasion."

Anthropology major Johnnica Hababag joined the dance club in 2010 and fell in love with it.

"The main aspect of dance club that separates it from other clubs is that it allows students to perform while expressing themselves through dance movements," said Hababag.

The club does more than get together and dance: it also works with other clubs and organizations on campus regarding social issues. The club worked with the ECO Advocates club this past fall in "Moving Planet" to honor the environment. The dance club will also participate March 28 in the anti-bullying themed club day.

"Dance club does not just dance," said Hababag. "Dance club does its best to promote dance and other activities in the community."

The club is also working on having an on-campus Dance Expo in April. According to Hababag, the Dance Expo will allow dancers from the surrounding community to perform in the school, having campus dance instructors and club members teach the neighboring dancers.

"This community is devoid of a lot of the arts," said Andressen. "There will be master classes taught by local dance instructors."

The club not only creates a space for dancers on campus, but it also has a sense of community. Recently, the club went and supported its moderator, Liz Casebolt, and her dance production off campus. Club members are also planning on seeing "Love (Sick)," Valley's upcoming theater arts production.

"We are really a tight-knit family," said Andressen. "We get sick together, we cry together and we celebrate. We know each others' business as well."

The dance club meets every Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Field House. For further information, visit: www.valleydanceclub.com.

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# VALLEY COLLEGE PLACES IN TOP 10 AT STATE SPEECH COMPETITION

**Valley College speech team brought home several awards and represented the school.**

COURTNEY BASSLER
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

The Valley College speech team came home this weekend with two wins from the California Community College Forensics Association. The team placed seventh in the state, and communications major Gregory Pugliese tied in the overall top speaker and sweepstakes categories at the state competition, securing him a full-ride to Asuza Pacific University.

The team traveled to Concord to compete against 28 other colleges from California. Six out of seven team members placed in the five-day competition, bringing home 12 awards.

> **"It's awesome to see the person they start off as and then the person they become."**
>
> -Joshua Miller, Valley College speech coach

English major John Henry Evans took home a bronze award for persuasion and program oral interpretation. Evans also competed in prose but did not place after going over the allotted time by 32 seconds.

"He would have taken a gold if he hadn't gone over time," said Pugliese. "His prose was really good."

Because the speech budget has been consistently reduced, the team and coaching staff have engineered creative ways to help with the cost of the program. Each second a member goes over, he or she must put 25 cents into a jar. Another requires each speech team member to donate $350 to the LAVC Foundation on campus, which qualifies as a tax write-off. The team has also received generous contributions from the Associated Student Union.

"This fee helps out with some of the costs that are lacking," said environmental engineering major Spencer Belko.

One thing resonates with this speech team: its sense of community and how close the seven students are.

"We put up with each others' nuances," said communications major Albert Pugliese.

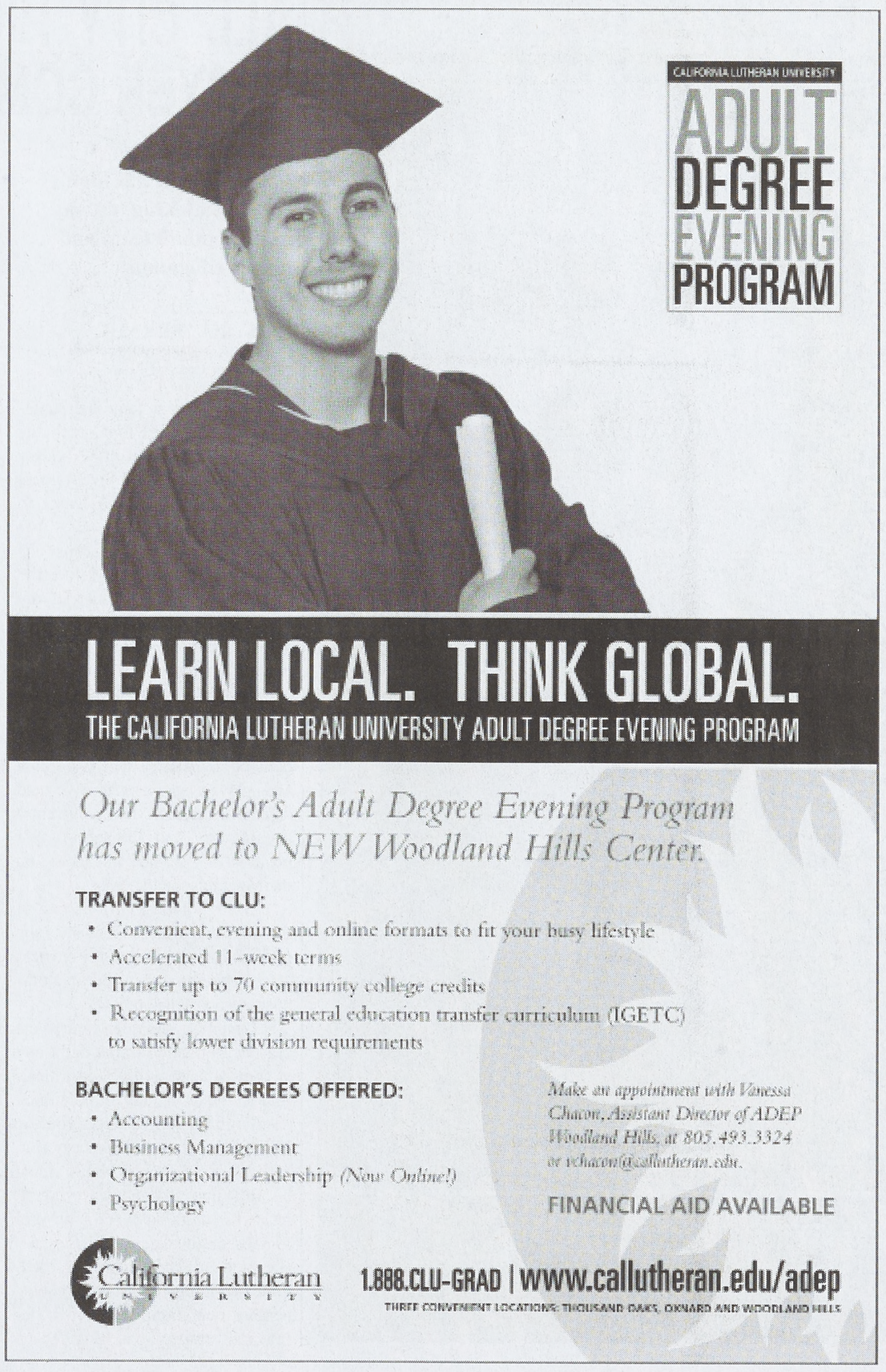
The team has spent many hours together. Some start as speech 101 students then decide to join the team, constantly getting to know everyone even better.

"It's awesome to see the person they start off as and then the person they become," said Joshua Miller, who is one of the speech team's coaches.

Miller is now the chair of the Academic Senate and devotes much of his time to being the voice of faculty on campus. Despite enjoying his new position, he regrets not being able to dedicate more of his time to the speech team.

"They are all awesome people," said Miller. "They're a great group. It's made me miss coaching [full time]."

The team will travel to Schaumburg, Illinois, for the national competition, Phi Rho Phi, April 9 through April 14. They will be competing against 70 colleges, according to Miller.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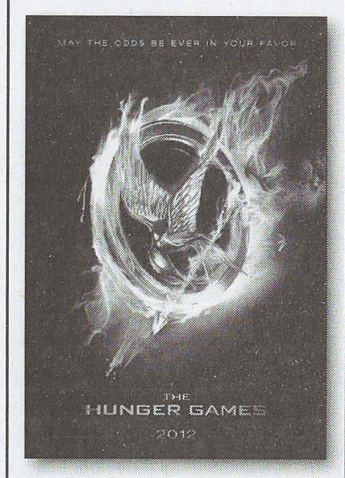
## @THE MOVIES

### OPENING THIS WEEKEND

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## MEDIA RELEASES

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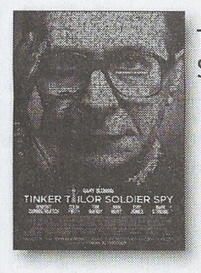


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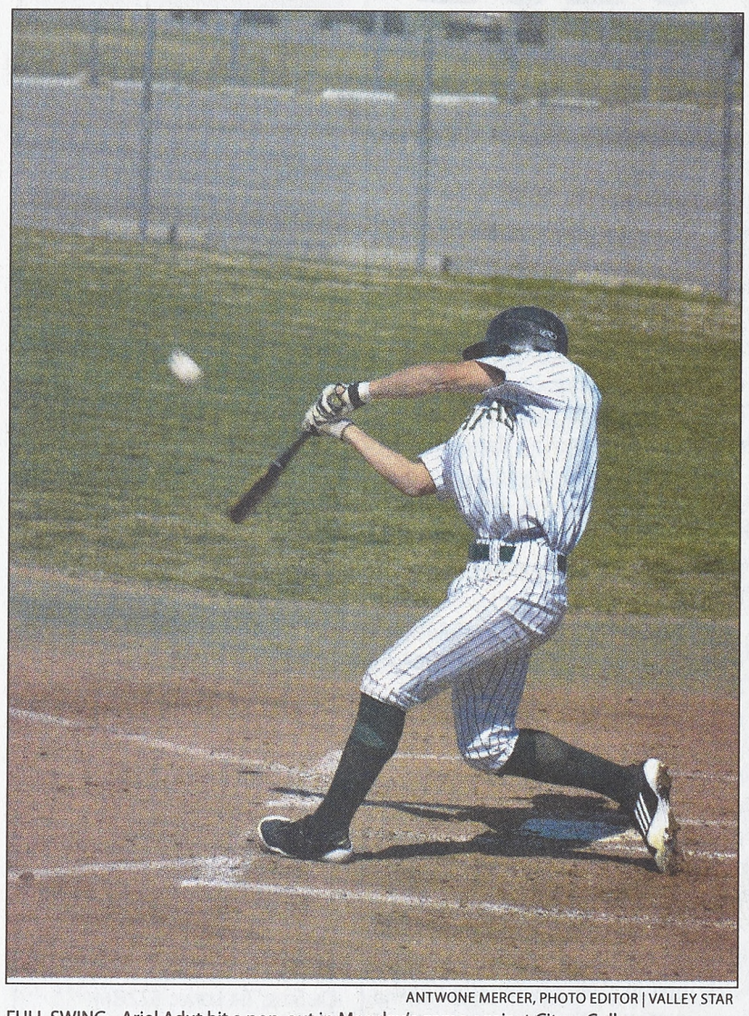
- "WILD ONES" - FLO RIDA (FEAT. SIA)
- "WHAT MAKES YOU BEAUTIFUL"- ONE DIRECTION

### CONCERTS & THEATRE

- ZAKIR HUSSIAN'S MASTERS OF PERCUSSION: MARCH 21, WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL
- CULTS: MARCH 22, FONDA THEATRE
- FUNK-A-PALOOZA: MARCH 23, GIBSON AMPHITHEATRE
- ALLEN STONE: MARCH 24, TROUBADOR
- ROSE EMSEMBLE: MARCH 24, THE GETTY
- MUMMIY TROLL: MARCH 24, THE VIPER ROOM

# MONARCHS COLLECT THIRD CONSECUTIVE VICTORY AGAINST PIERCE



ANTWONE MERCER, PHOTO EDITOR | VALLEY STAR
FULL SWING - Ariel Adut hit a pop-out in Monday's game against Citrus College.

**The Monarchs collect three consecutive conference wins in the last week.**

ROMEO GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

After being down seven runs in yesterday's game against Pierce College, the Valley College baseball team rallied by scoring 12 runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, securing the team's 10th victory of the season.

At the top of the sixth, the Monarchs were down 11-4 after Pierce took advantage of Valley's bad pitching in the fourth inning. Pierce scored five runs in the fourth inning and added four more runs in the fifth and sixth innings of the game.

To start the bottom of the sixth, Monarch first baseman Trevor McMaster hit a line drive to center field, which brought two runs and started a huge momentum shift in favor of Valley. The line drive would ensue 10 more runs in the sixth, giving the Monarchs a 16-11 lead going into the seventh.

"You have to keep the motivation up," said Valley pitcher David Armas during Monday's game against Citrus College.

The Monarchs secured a win in the eighth inning, scoring two more runs and defeating Pierce 18-11. The victory gives the Monarchs three consecutive wins in the Western State Conference.

Last Thursday, Valley played College of the Canyons and had a great pitching performance by left-handed pitcher Travis Cassidy. Cassidy pitched the entire game, only giving up two runs.

"You enjoy this one today, and go back to work [tomorrow]," said Cassidy. "You focus on the next guy."

Against the Cougars, Valley lacked rhythm in the first four innings, unable to score runs. It wasn't until the bottom of the fifth that lead-off hitter Nathan Mendez hit a fly ball to left field giving Monarchs its first run.

The hit by Mendez gave Valley the momentum needed, putting six more runs in the remainder of the game. Valley scored two runs in the bottom of the sixth when right fielder Marcel Chavez hit a line drive to center field bringing in a run from Eric Folkers.

"We're just taking it one game at a time," said Valley coach Dave Mallas. "It seems like every game is a close one."

Valley played Citrus College on Monday afternoon, winning 4-2 and displaying another great pitching performance by Armas, who pitched eight complete innings during the game.

"For our pitchers and defense to play really well, is pleasing to see," said Mallas. "We have a really resilient group."

The Monarchs' next conference game is away at Pierce tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 p.m.

RICHARD RAZAVI, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER | VALLEY STAR
IN THE NICK OF TIME - Monarch infielder Eric Folkers beat the ball back to first base when Pierce attempted to pick him off in yesterday's victory against the Pierce College Brahmas. Valley defeated Pierce 18-12. They play Pierce tomorrow, away, at 1 p.m.

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# ALL CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYER COMES TO VALLEY COLLEGE

**Valley student has high hopes of making his way to the football team and higher education.**

CRISTINA SERRATO
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Covered in tattoos and standing at a statuesque 6 foot 1 inch, the 250-pound, 18-year-old Anthony Romualdo is noticed everywhere he goes, and now he has come to Valley College.

"I came to Valley because it's closer to where I live. I like the school, and I'm confident in my ability," said Romualdo. "It doesn't matter where I play; I will get noticed wherever I am at."

Romualdo graduated from Francis Polytechnic high school in Sun Valley where he was recognized as a 2011 All City pick and played as an offensive and defensive lineman. He is currently training for—and is hopeful for—a position as a middle linebacker on the Monarch squad.

"He's a good kid. He's one of the guys that work hard to start the process," said coach Jim Fenwick. "He's trying to earn a spot in a new position on the team."

Despite a shoulder injury last season, Romualdo trains daily and is confident he will obtain a position on the Monarchs' middle line.

Training for a position on the Valley football team is no easy feat. Interested student-athletes must be full-time students carrying at least 12 units and train several months in advance before they are accepted onto the team roster, if eligible. Training consists of weights, aerobic conditioning, speed training and strategy coaching for an average of four hours a day from January when the offseason begins until August when the roster is released.

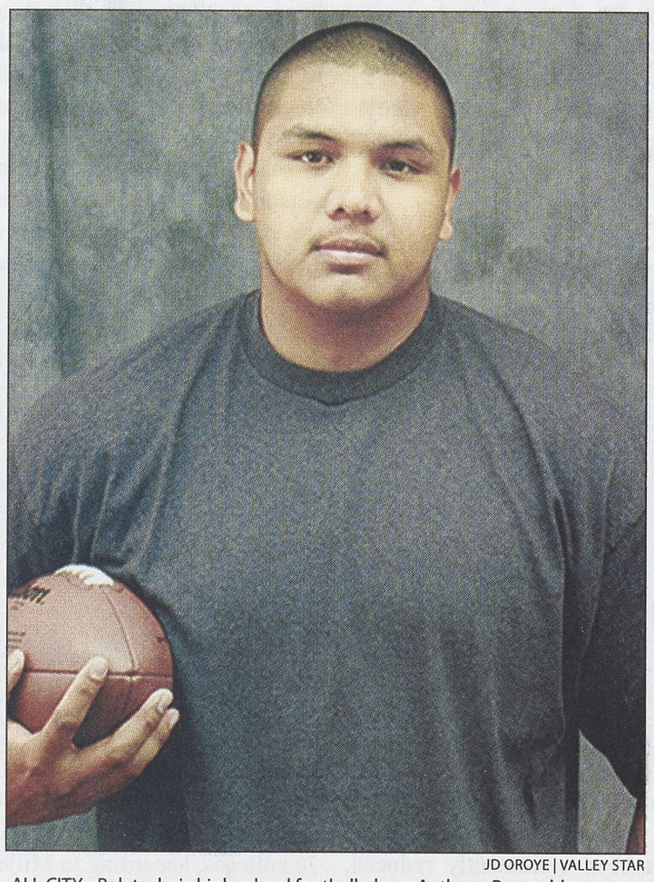
"Anthony was one of the nicest, easy going guys and a great student-athlete, a star student-athlete here," said Poly Athletic Director Kim McEwing. "He is a great, great guy, the kind of guy you want to be your son."

Romualdo is about more than football. He lives with his grandparents and helps them take care of their home. He also plays guitar and has volunteered as a junior varsity football coach for his former high school. He aspires to get his bachelor's degree in kineseology and to one day become an orthopedic doctor with an emphasis on athletics.

"We help those kids who come here, work hard and play on the team to get scholarships," said Fenwick. "We want to see them succeed to the next level."

Many student-athletes come to Valley in hopes of getting scholarships to four-year and Division 1 universities every semester; and while all may not be granted scholarships or drafted, a great number of students are. Romualdo hopes to be among them and that USC will notice his talent.

"I want to play hard [and] break records, but really just try my best," said Romualdo. "I hope to get noticed by a college that will give me a try, and I will do my absolute best."



JD OROYE | VALLEY STAR
ALL CITY - Polytechnic high school football player Anthony Romualdo comes to Valley in hopes of playing college football for the Monarchs.